

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A removable dust collecting receptacle, for use in a dust compartment of a vacuum cleaner, comprising:

- a dust separator which operates according to the centrifugal force principle and which has an inlet opening for receiving dust-laden air including a first dust fraction and a second dust fraction;

- a first outlet for removing the first dust fraction separated from the dust-laden air by the dust separator;

- a first dust collecting compartment in fluid flow communication with the first outlet and at least partially collecting the first dust fraction;

- a separating device separating the second dust fraction from at least one of the dust-laden air and the first dust fraction; and

- a second dust collecting compartment at least partially collecting the second dust fraction separated by the separating device.

21. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 20, wherein the separating device is constructed to separate the second dust fraction from the dust-laden air.

22. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 20, wherein the separating device is constructed to separate the second dust fraction from the first dust fraction.

23. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 20, wherein the dust collecting receptacle has a second outlet for removing the second

dust fraction separated by the separating device into the second dust collecting compartment, the second dust collecting compartment being in fluid flow communication with the second outlet.

24. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 20, wherein the separating device is arranged between the dust separator and at least one of the first dust collecting compartment and the second dust collecting compartment.

25. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 24, wherein the dust separator includes a cylindrical side wall having an opening and the separating device includes a separator surface arranged in the opening of the side wall.

26. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 25, wherein the separator surface in the cylindrical side wall is downstream of the inlet opening and upstream of the first outlet in the direction of flow of the dust-laden air.

27. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 26, wherein the inlet opening for dust-laden air is constructed in a first front end section of the cylindrical side wall and the separator surface is arranged in a second front end section of the cylindrical side wall opposite to the first front end section.

28. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 25, wherein the separator surface and the first outlet are arranged substantially oppositely in the side wall.

29. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 25, wherein the separator surface includes a sieve.

30. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 25, wherein the separator surface defines a gap arranged so that it runs substantially perpendicular to the axial extension in the side wall.

31. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 30, wherein the separator surface (45) includes a gap extending radially between 60 to 120 degrees of the circumference in a side wall section of the cylindrical side wall.

32. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 31, wherein the gap extends radially about 90 degrees of the circumference in the side wall section of the cylindrical side wall.

33. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 30, wherein the gap has a gap width between 0.1 and 1.0 mm.

34. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 33, wherein the gap width is about 0.3 mm.

35. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 30, wherein the gap is embodied as an open-edged exposed recess in the side wall.

36. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 35, wherein the open-edged exposed recess is delimited by a receptacle lid of the dust separator.

37. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 20, wherein the first dust collecting compartment is separated from the second dust collecting compartment by a dividing wall which forms a channel wall of an entrance channel arranged before the inlet opening in the direction of flow of the dust-laden air.

38. (Previously Presented) The dust collecting receptacle according to claim 20, wherein the first dust collecting compartment for receiving the first dust fraction has a larger volume than the second dust collecting compartment for receiving the second dust fraction.

39. (Previously Presented) A vacuum cleaner comprising:
a housing defining a dust compartment
a dust collecting receptacle removably disposed within the dust compartment and having a dust separator centrifugally separating dust fractions from dust-laden air, the dust separator including:
a side wall forming a substantially cylindrical chamber;
an inlet opening at least partially defined by the side wall and receiving dust-laden air including a first dust fraction and a second dust fraction into the dust separator;
a first outlet at least partially defined by the side wall and receiving the first dust fraction separated from the dust-laden air by the dust separator;
a first dust collecting compartment in fluid flow communication with the first outlet and at least partially collecting the first dust fraction;
a second outlet at least partially defined by the side wall and receiving the second dust fraction; and
a second dust collecting compartment in fluid flow communication with the second outlet and at least partially collecting the second dust fraction.

40. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 39, wherein dust particles of the first dust fraction are relatively larger than the dust particles of the second dust fraction.

41. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 39, wherein the side wall extends between a bottom end section and a top end section disposed opposite the first end section, the inlet opening being disposed adjacent the

bottom end section and the first and second outlets being disposed adjacent the top end section above the inlet opening.

42. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 39, wherein the first outlet and the second are arranged substantially opposite one another with respect to the circumference of the side wall.

43. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 39, further comprising a sieve disposed within the second outlet and having a mesh structure defining multiple apertures of a selected size to restrict the size of dust particles passing through the second outlet and into the second dust collecting compartment.

44. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 39, wherein the second outlet includes a gap having a gap length extending radially between 60 to 120 degrees with respect to the circumference of the side wall and a gap width between 0.1 and 1.0 mm along the side wall with respect to an axial direction of the cylindrical chamber, the gap restricting the size of dust particles passing through the second outlet and into the second dust collecting compartment.

45. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 44, wherein the gap length extends radially about 90 degrees with respect to the circumference of the side wall and the gap width is about 0.3 mm.

46. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 39, wherein the dust collecting receptacle includes a removable receptacle lid engaging the side wall and at least partially defining the first outlet and the second outlet.

47. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 46, wherein the receptacle lid includes a deflecting element projecting from the receptacle lid toward the dust separator and directing air flow downwardly.

48. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 39, wherein the dust collecting receptacle includes a receptacle bottom having an outlet opening in fluid flow communication with the dust separator and receiving discharge air flow from the dust separator, the receptacle bottom having a filter for restricting remaining dust particles from passing through the outlet opening.

49. (New) The removable dust collecting receptacle as claimed in claim 20, wherein the separating device is positioned upstream of the first and/or second dust collecting departments.

50. (New) The removable dust collecting receptacle as claimed in claim 20, further comprising a second outlet for removing the second dust fraction separated by the separating device into the second dust collecting compartment, and wherein the first and second outlets are positioned on an upper end of the dust separator.

51. (New) The removable dust collecting receptacle as claimed in claim 20, wherein the first and second dust fractions to be collected in the first and second dust collecting compartments, respectively, have different characteristics.

52. (New) The removable dust collecting receptacle as claimed in claim 51, wherein the first dust fraction to be collected in the first dust collecting compartment includes coarse dust and the second dust fraction to be collected in the second dust compartment includes only fine dust.

53. (New) The removable dust collecting receptacle as claimed in claim 20, wherein the separating device is positioned between the dust separator and the second dust collecting department.

54. (New) The removable dust collecting receptacle as claimed in claim 20, further comprising a filter positioned at an outlet opening of the dust separator, the second dust fraction in use being collected in the second dust collecting compartment before reaching the filter.